ANNOUNCEMENTS

Abortion Rights Action Week, October 21-28, will be a week of national activities focusing on reproductive rights. For further information, write to: Abortion Rights Action Week, c/o Frances Kissling, 17 Murray Street, New York, New York 10016; Tel (212) 964-3668.

The South Eastern Women's Studies Association will sponsor a session on "Patriarchy in the South: Women and Power." Papers may focus on any aspect of the topic, including the history of women in the South, current studies/assessments of women's roles, myths and attitudes concerning white and Third World women, so that a full range of experiences of women in the South is represented. Maximum reading time is 18 minutes; abstracts or completed papers are due November 10. Send to Irene Thompson, Department of English, 4008 GPA, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida 32611.

The Berkshire Conference of Women Historians. The fifth conference will be held at Vassar College in June 1981. Panel proposals are invited from interested researchers. Proposals (in the form of workshops, papers, or panels) should include a title indicating the theme, names of participants, and titles of their papers, names of commentators and chairpersons. Proposals should also include a brief abstract of each paper and the address, phone number, and brief vita of each participant. Include a self-addressed postcard for acknowledging receipt of proposals. Cross-cultural, comparative and transnational proposals are particularly welcome. Please send to JoAnn McNamara, 500 West 111th Street, New York, New York 10025 by December 15, 1979. Absolute final deadline: March 15, 1980.

Working Women's Institute is a national resource, research, and action center created to combat sexual harassment in the workplace. Nine out of ten women work to support themselves and their families at some time in their lives. Unwanted sexual attention—subtle looks, comments, innuendos, jokes, unnecessary touching, explicit sexual demands—threaten their economic security and their equal employment opportunity. In response, Working Women's Institute has established an information clearinghouse and has launched a program to implement change, including service (crisis intervention, information and referral, support groups, advocacy); education (speakers bureau, research, resource materials, workshops, expert testimony); legal and policy programs (brief bank, legal network, public policy assessment). Working Women's Institute

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depends on contributions from those who believe women should be able to work free from harassment. Send inquiries and financial support to Working Women's Institute, 593 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10021.

New York Feminist Art Institute plans a fall opening for its two-year innovative school and hospitality center for women in the arts who wish a home base when visiting New York City. Write for brochure: Feminist Art Institute, P.O. Box 789. Canal Street Station, New York, New York 10013.

Bay Area Women Against Rape provides free, confidential assistance to victims of sexual assault to deal with the aftermath of attack and to improve the care that survivors receive from friends and institutions. Bay Area Women against Rape (Tel. 845-RAPE) provides self-defense training; crisis counseling; peer counseling; liaison and escort services to police, hospital, court; referrals for lawyers, doctors, therapists, parent groups; and training for police, paramedic, and mental health workers.

Aphra, the original women's literary magazine, is resuming publication and hopes to put out an issue by the fall of 1979. *Aphra* requests that subscribers who have moved since 1976 send change-of-address cards to the new address: Box 840, Sag Harbor, New York 11963. Because *Aphra* editors are still opening year-old mail, they request that no manuscripts be sent as yet. New subscriptions are invited.

The Women's History Project of the United Methodist Church, under the auspices of its general Commission on Archives and History, is a significant breakthrough in extrauniversity funding and promotion of scholarship in women's history and church history as it relates to women. Created under general legislation of The United Methodist Church and awarded a planning grant of $25,000 from the General Council on Ministries, it is the first women's history project sponsored by a major U.S. denomination.

The purpose of the six-year program is to research and write the history of women's contributions to The United Methodist Church (and its antecedents), and thereby to American society, with particular attention to the part played by ethnic minority women. It is anticipated that the project will publish bibliographies, manuscript inventories, and popular and scholarly histories of the struggles and achievements of Methodist and Evangelical United Brethren women in church and society across the last 200 years. Recording oral histories, convening a scholarly conference, and presenting an exhibition of visual materials are other project goals.

The Women's History Project of the United Methodist Church

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seeks to stimulate and support new research and to identify and enhance the work of graduate students and established scholars already active in the field. In time it should help underwrite promising investigations and their publication by a number of grants-in-aid.

Communications about work in progress and inquiries are invited. Please address all correspondence to: Ms. Hilah F. Thomas, Project Coordinator, Women's History Project of The United Methodist Church, Room 1700B, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, New York 10027.

Attention: Consumer Fraud in Women's Studies. Women's studies teachers and librarians should be aware of certain facts regarding a publishing project known as the *Encyclopedia of Women*, originally offered for sale in 1975 by Publishing Center, Inc. in Michigan. According to a brochure issued by Publishing Center, Inc., the *Encyclopedia* was to be complete in eighteen volumes, and was to be "the best dictionary of facts on women's history ever published." The work was to cost $720 on delivery, or $648 prepaid. Prominently displayed in the brochure was a "Price Stabilization Guarantee" assuring subscribers of delivery at the advertised price, despite any future increases in production costs. The brochure also contained a photograph of nineteen (*sic*) bound volumes, and an announcement that "The Volumes will be sent to you as they come off press beginning Fall 1975, with subsequent volumes sent at bimonthly intervals."

Purchasers of the *Encyclopedia* have, however, received not eighteen bound volumes, but four plastic ring binders, empty except for a seventy-six-page Chronology of Women in World History. These binders have been received not from Publishing Center, Inc., but from New Women Press, 610 South Venice Boulevard, Box 4067, Venice, California 90291. New Women Press has also been the source of November 1978 invoices stating that the eighteen-volume *Encyclopedia* is "Now complete in 34 volumes," and inviting subscribers to "Upgrade your order" by remitting the difference between the original purchase price of $648 or $720 and the new price of $1,020.

Publishing Center, Inc., and seven other firms with the same address or post office box number, and sometimes with the same name, appear on a list of firms against which the Committee on Relations with Publishers and Dealers of the American Association of Law Libraries issued a warning in the fall of 1977. The note of caution stated: There is a rapidly mushrooming subset of publishers in these fields whose offerings are suspect—in some cases non-existent—and whose business practices are often actionable. They specialize in advertising the publication of reference works, usually multi-volume sets, offering generous prepublication discounts

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and then failing to deliver. They tend to change names and addresses frequently, and to make refunds only under pressure of legal action."

New Women Press and Publishing Center, Inc., plus eleven other versions of the Detroit firm, also appear on a similar list circulated at the summer 1978 meetings of the American Library Association.

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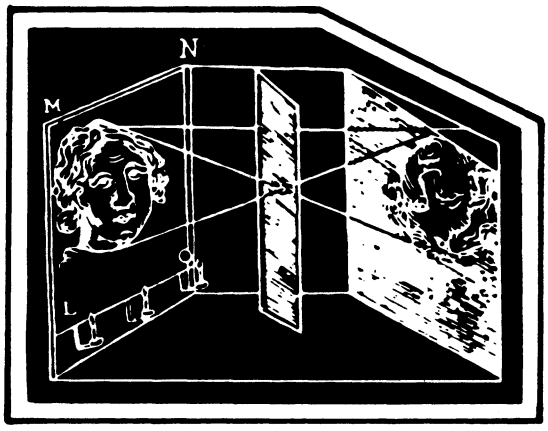

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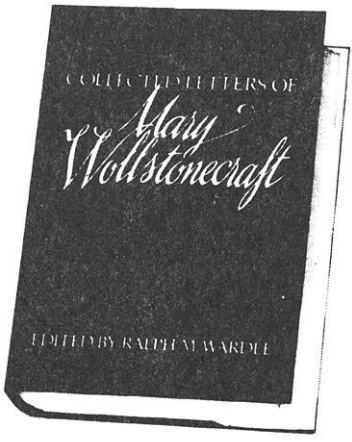

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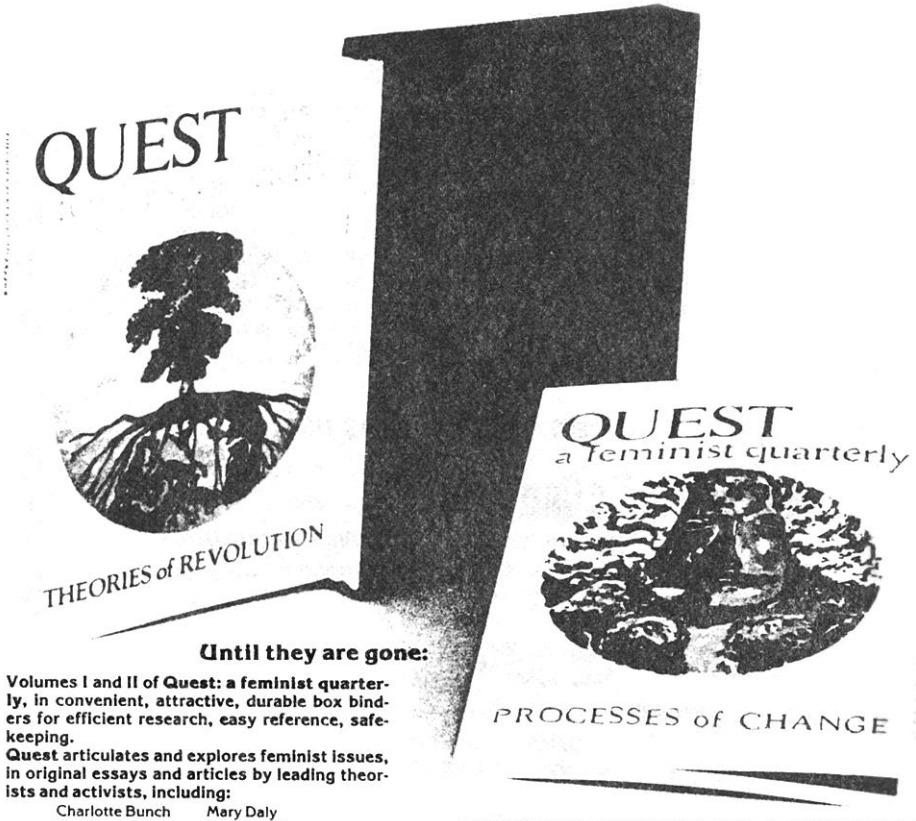

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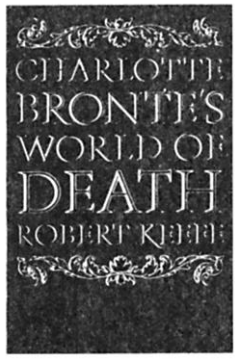

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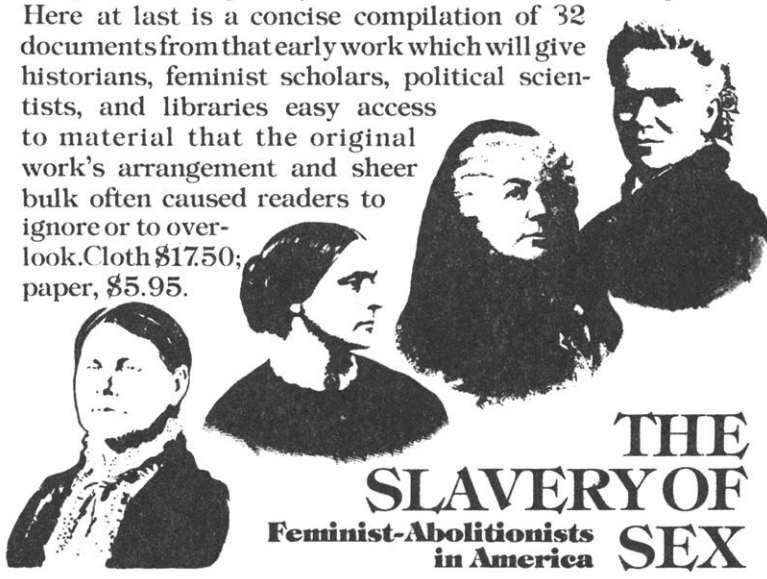

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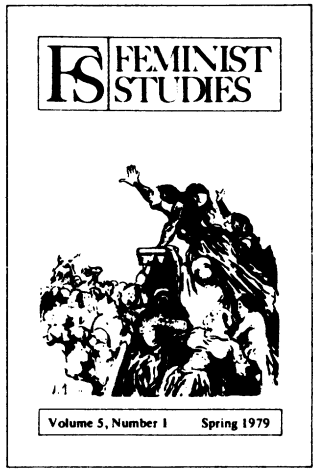

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